

SHALER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY 101

SECTION: PROGRAMS
 TITLE: PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION/GOALS
 ADOPTED: April 15, 1998
 REVISED:

101. PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION/GOALS

Title 22
 Sec. 5.2
 et seq

A democratic society is founded on the worth of each individual and the value of his/her unique contribution to that society. The Board is committed to providing a system of education that will offer equal educational interests, abilities, and needs consistent with available resources.

The faculty and administration of Shaler Area School District are committed to the belief that life in a democracy requires unending inquiry and experiment. We reflect this belief in district programs organized around three (3) goals. First, to help to develop the individual student's sense of identity and independence through study of the cultural, intellectual, occupational and leisure opportunities open to him or her; second, to create an environment where inquiry and experiment are encouraged; third, to direct the influences which shape the student's learning toward common purposes.

The common purposes include the development of: an understanding of the creative principles of our own and other cultural traditions, of a concern for the right of others, of individual interests and abilities, positive peer and adult interaction, active experience in self-government, interest in the creative arts, care for the environment and preparation for the future.

Our common goals should be promoted in a school community which encourages its members to be competent, responsible, sensitive persons who strive for both self-fulfillment and the common good. We should, therefore, provide a curriculum which generates a constant exchange of information and ideas

among students and teachers in a climate where freedoms are enlarged, responsibilities divided and accepted, and in which there is a shared development of the school's governing policies and procedures, and student's rights and responsibilities.

Because we must serve the needs of individuals who differ in ability, motivation, achievement and creativity, we include curricular options which will enable us to respect and respond to these differences. We also recognize the value of learning which takes place outside the classroom, and we accept an independent responsibility with students' families, their community and employers for providing learning experiences which bring together the physical, intellectual, emotional and ethical life of the individual.

If we are to live successfully in an open, democratic society, we must have a common body of principle and knowledge, a common moral discipline, and faith in the future. And, we must make continued use of our cultural and our school resources to meet the diverse needs of our students and the changing challenges of our time.

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